

expandable by deformation of fingers of material in the intermediate portion where adjacent circumferentially spaced slots overlap, and

lengths of expandable tubing defining overlapping longitudinal slots with nodes beyond the ends of the slots and having slotted end portions, the tubing being radially expandable by deformation of fingers of material where adjacent circumferentially spaced slots overlap,

wherein the slotted end portions of the connector are threaded to the nodes of respective end portions of the tubing lengths and the deformable fingers of the connector are axially spaced from the end most deformable fingers of the respective tubing lengths.

3. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the intermediate portion is of corresponding configuration of the tubing lengths, such that expansion characteristics of the connected tubing assembly are substantially constant.

4. The assembly of claim 3, wherein the connector intermediate portion is of substantially the same wall thickness of the tubing and wherein the connector end portions are upset.

5. The assembly of claim 4 wherein each connector end portion defines an internal thread for engaging a corresponding thread on an outer surface of the respective tubing end portion.

6. The assembly of claim 1 wherein the connector end portions define grooves to receive corresponding tongues provided on the tubing length end portions.

Sub 13 > 16. (Amended) An expandable tubing assembly, comprising:
a first and second tubulars having a plurality of longitudinal slots formed therein;
a connector threadably disposed between the first and second tubulars, wherein
the connector comprises:

first and second ends having a plurality of radially spaced, longitudinal slots formed therein; and

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(amended)

an intermediate portion located between the first and second ends having a plurality of radially spaced, longitudinal slots that at least partially overlap the slots formed in the first and second ends.

17. The assembly of claim 16, wherein the slots formed in the first tubular, the second tubular, and the intermediate portion are expandable.

18. The assembly of claim 17, wherein the slots formed in the first tubular, the second tubular, and the intermediate portion are expandable to form substantially diamond shaped apertures.

19. The assembly of claim 17, wherein an inner surface of the first and second ends of the connector is threaded.

20. The assembly of claim 19, wherein the threaded inner surface of the first and second ends of the connector engage a corresponding thread on an outer surface of the first and second tubular.

21. The assembly of claim 20, wherein the first and second ends of the connector include a recessed groove that receives a tongue disposed on an end of the first and second tubular.

Sub E6
D2
22. (Amended) The assembly of claim 16, wherein the connector is attached to the first and second tubulars using one or more means for connecting disposed between the radially spaced, longitudinal slots formed in the first and second ends of the connector.

23. (Amended) An expandable tubing assembly, comprising:
a first and second tubulars having a plurality of longitudinal slots formed therein;
a connector disposed between the first and second slotted tubulars, where in the connector comprises:

first and second ends having a plurality of radially spaced, longitudinal slots formed therein, wherein an inner surface of the first and second ends of the connector is threaded; and

an intermediate portion located between the first and second ends having a plurality of radially spaced, longitudinal slots that at least partially overlap the slots formed in the first and second ends,

wherein the threaded inner surfaces of the first and second ends of the connector engage a corresponding thread on an outer surface of the first and second tubular.

24. The assembly of claim 23, wherein the slots formed in the first tubular, the second tubular, and the intermediate portion are expandable to form substantially diamond shaped apertures.

25. An expandable tubing assembly, comprising:
a first and second tubular having a plurality of longitudinal slots formed therein;
a connector disposed between the first and second slotted tubulars, wherein the connector comprises:

first and second ends having a plurality of radially spaced, longitudinal slots formed therein, wherein an inner surface of the first and second ends of the connector is threaded and wherein the first and second ends of the connector include a recessed groove; and

an intermediate portion located between the first and second ends having a plurality of radially spaced, longitudinal slots that at least partially overlap the slots formed in the first and second ends,

wherein the threaded inner surfaces of the first and second ends of the connector engage a corresponding thread on an outer surface of the first and second tubular and